

SfAA 2010 Election Biographies

President-Elect Candidates

Merrill Eisenberg

As a non-traditional applied anthropologist, my passion lies in helping community organizations and programs better understand themselves, and working to empower communities to advocate for themselves using the policy process. Coming from a politically-minded family (and being a child of the '60s), I have always realized that public policy frames much of how we experience life, the opportunities we have, and the problems we face. Public policy not only reflects, but also creates social norms, and therefore is a powerful tool for social change. I have brought this perspective to the SfAA, first as a member presenting papers at the annual meetings, then as a member of the Board of Directors from 2006-2009, and currently as Chair of the SfAA Policy Committee. With my friend and colleague, Diane Austin, I have developed and delivered a workshop titled "The Exotic World of Public Policy: How to Act Like a Native" which we have offered at our annual meetings for the past two years and plan to do again in Merida this spring. If given the opportunity to serve as President, I plan to provide leadership to move the Society in a direction that increases the voice of anthropologists in the policy process.

My interest in policy issues has always permeated my work. After receiving my PhD from the University of Connecticut in 1984, I remained in Connecticut, forming a small consulting group that sought contracts from local organizations, including state and local health departments, hospitals and health care facilities, and social service organizations. Although our contracts addressed a wide range of health issues and communities, I am most proud of work that led to passing a state Constitutional Amendment that protects disability rights (years before the advent of the ADA), and a significant re-organization of state services for people with disabilities.

Relocating to Arizona in 1997, I began a long stint in the world of tobacco control beginning as a staff researcher at the Arizona Cancer Center, and recently moving to the College of Public Health, where I am currently a member of the faculty (the oldest living Assistant Professor, for sure!). My work in Arizona included an ethnographic study of local level policy makers, which we used as the basis for training potential "tobacco warriors" in each of Arizona's 15 counties. I then had the pleasure of tracking the development of smoke-free ordinances across the state for the state health department. After the adoption of many ordinances, I participated in a statewide citizen initiative campaign to bring clean indoor air policy to all Arizonans (breathe a deep sigh of relief!). Recently I have turned my attention to the impact of community design and community development policies on health, starting a relationship with Activate Tucson, a collaboration of many organizations in Tucson that are interested

addressing obesity from the perspective of community design and access to healthy foods.

I am honored and thrilled to have been nominated to run for President of SfAA. My three years on the Board ended last spring and I feel I was just getting started. I have an understanding of how the organization operates, the challenges we face, and the breadth of our incredible membership. If given the opportunity to serve as President, in addition to attending to the routine organizational issues of the Society I will continue to promote organizational attention to policy issues and to develop opportunities to teach and inspire student members to analyze, appreciate, and participate in policy culture. I will work with the Board and all interested members to develop the human resources and infrastructure necessary to raise the voice of anthropology in the policy process at local, state, and national levels.

Jeanne Simonelli

In March 1983 I attended my first professional meeting, joining SfAA as it met in San Diego. Then, as now, it was the ideal initial encounter with colleagues for a student. The intervening years have allowed me to grow with SfAA and now, as candidate for president, to be part of an organization with the ability to reach out and include all constituencies in productive discussions of mutual interest and significance-- from student members to over-worked practitioners and devoted university-based teachers, to committed community partners.

As an applied cultural anthropologist with a graduate degree in Public Health, my twenty-five years of teaching anthropology have been fertilized by continuing community development work in Chiapas, Mexico, Canyon de Chelly, Arizona and Otsego County, New York. My field experiences are united by the broad theme of change and choice in difficult situations and the innovative ways in which applied skills and knowledge can be used by the communities who engage us in their on-going projects. I've enjoyed teaching applied anthropological skills to field students in Mexico and the Southwest, while integrating the important lesson of learning from community partners.

My six year appointment as co-editor of *Practicing Anthropology* has provided me with a broad knowledge and respect for the areas in which our members work, as well as the ways in which greater communication might assist us as practitioners and teachers. This perspective was enhanced by my experience as Program Chair for the 2009 SfAA Annual Meeting which also highlighted the places where the participation of other applied social scientists and practitioners would help us extend our interdisciplinary mission. Given the challenges facing individuals and the society in these difficult times, the ability to bring people together and focus on issues and tasks is an important skill that the SfAA president, as leader and enabler, needs to have. Working as Program Chair allowed me to learn how to see the big picture while being able to attend to details.

Editing PA accentuated the importance of good writing as a way for us to be heard beyond the academy, something I've tried to do in my own principal publications *Crossing Between Worlds: The Navajos of Canyon de Chelly* (2nd edition 2008; 1997), *Uprising of Hope: Sharing the Zapatista Journey to Alternative Development* (2005); *Too Wet To Plow: The Family Farm in Transition* (1992) and *Two Boys, A Girl, and Enough!* (1986).

At both the State University of New York and at Wake Forest University, I've had the opportunity to chair five-field anthropology departments, roles which have taught me the administrative tools needed to guide a large and diverse professional organization like SfAA. At SUNY-Oneonta I developed and guided an undergraduate applied major. I also served as President of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology.

Interacting with the membership of the Society has helped me to learn their particular skills and strengths and, as President, I will be committed to policies that enhance our ability to identify and utilize their varied experiential toolkit. With a strong leadership and a skilled administrative office and staff working together, SfAA can continue to provide a forum for those seeking to solve real world problems, and working models for those who set policy in these complex times. I will maintain our organizational strengths, identify our potential, and engage our membership through a creative and fiscally responsible presidency, guided by patience and humor.

Board of Directors - Slate A Candidates

John M. Donahue

I am Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas and have been a member of the SFAA for over 30 years. If elected to the Board of Directors, I would hope to bring the spirit of collegiality to the Board that has marked my 16 year service as Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. That experience has taught me the value of and skills for interdisciplinary research and collaboration. The Society seeks to include social scientists "from a variety of backgrounds who are making an impact on the quality of life in the world today." My own service to the Society has focused on organizing panels for the annual meetings that bring the insights from several disciplinary perspectives to bear on issues such as health care and environmental sustainability. Most recently at the Santa Fe meetings my panel focused on "Managing Water Conflicts: Collaboration among Stakeholders in the Recovery of Endangered Species." Participants included collaborative learning specialists, wildlife biologists, and anthropologists. I would be pleased, if elected, to promote further interdisciplinary collaboration among the members of the Society and expand its membership across the applied spectrum.

My own research has been applied and collaborative. My early work focused on health care in Latin America. Among my publications in that area include *The Nicaraguan*

Revolution in Health: From Somoza to the Sandinistas (South Hadley, MA: Bergin and Garvey) in 1986, and “Participación popular en la atención de la salud en Nicaragua: teoría y práctica” (Mexico City: Instituto Mora) in 1999. More recently, my research has focused on issues of natural resource management, particularly water. My edited volume with Barbara Rose Johnson, *Water, Culture and Power: Local Struggles in a Global Context* (Washington: Island Press) appeared in 1998. Other published research deals with mediation efforts in water conflicts domestically (2001 and 2005) and internationally (with Mexico, 2009). I am currently carrying out research on Recovery Implementation Programs for Endangered Species and co-editing a volume on water issues in Northern Mexico and the Southwestern United States.

Thomas Leatherman

Tom Leatherman is Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. His research has focused primarily on structural violence, social inequalities and health among rural communities in Latin America and in the U.S. This work has ranged from the causes and consequences of illness on farming production and household economies in Peru, to the effects of tourism on food commoditization and dietary change in the Yucatan, to diet and health in Low Country South Carolina. He co-edited *Building a New Biocultural Synthesis: Political- Economic Perspectives on Human Biology* with Alan Goodman, and *Medical Pluralism in the Andes* with Joan Koss-Chioino and Christine Greenway, as well as a special collection of papers in *Human Organization* (with Andrew Gordon) titled “Agrarian Transformations and Health.” Current and future research focuses on the health and nutritional impacts of armed conflict, and specifically on the effects of civil war, neoliberal economic policies, and shifts in land tenure on food security, nutrition and health in highland Peru. He has formerly served on the Nominations and Election Committee of the SfAA, as Vice-President of the Council on Nutritional Anthropology (now Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition), as Secretary-Treasurer of the Biological Anthropology Section of the AAA, and most recently, on the Executive Board of the Society for Medical Anthropology, and Executive Board of the American Anthropological Association.

If elected, I look forward to the opportunity to serve the SfAA on its Executive Board. The SfAA provides an important venue for the inter and intradisciplinary meeting of theory and practice in Anthropology. I would hope to contribute to and expand that unique place for SfAA in Anthropology. I would also work toward strengthening connections between anthropologists working in applied and academic settings, and support efforts to advance the training and opportunities for a new generation of students who increasingly wish to work in applied settings in ways that directly benefit those who participate in our work.

Board of Directors - Slate B Candidates

Nancy Schoenberg

More than any other organization, the Society for Applied Anthropology's mission, purpose, and activities resonate with my professional orientation—an inclusive organization that embraces core values of advocacy, fairness, and diversity; one that nurtures the next generation of anthropologists and other social scientists; and one that promotes the development and exchange of new and dynamic ways of engaging in and improving the discipline and society at large. I have been fortunate to have a very active involvement in the SfAA since the mid 1990s, serving in a variety of capacities including as a member of the Peter K. New Award Committee (1999-2004); as a fellow (2002) and then a sustaining fellow (2008); as an editorial board member of *Human Organization* (1999-2005); as a member of the Publications Committee (2002-present) and then chair of the committee twice (2003-2005 and 2007-present); as a member of the program committee (2007-2008) and as the chair of the search committee for *Human Organization* editor (2003 and 2009). Throughout the years, I have had the pleasure of attending most of the annual SfAA meetings, allowing me to experience firsthand the accomplishments and promises of this diverse group of advocates, scholars, students, and practitioners.

Like the SfAA itself, my professional career has been interdisciplinary, applied, and diverse. As a medical anthropologist and gerontologist, my research focuses on improving health outcomes among underserved populations, namely older adults, African Americans, and rural residents. My current projects use community based participatory research and mixed method designs to reduce the burdens of cancer, diabetes, and other chronic conditions among Appalachian residents through various approaches, including faith-placed, social network interventions; lay health advisor approaches; and provider practice interventions. I regularly serve as a grant proposal reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, I am the Associate Editor of *The Gerontologist*, and I serve as a President's Professor at the University of Alaska. I also teach several graduate seminars and provide mentorship for students, post docs, and junior faculty. I work closely with Area Agencies on Aging, Senior Centers, and other community-based organizations, supporting the inextricable linkable between practice and academics.

Serving on the Board of Directors would give me the opportunity to deepen my involvement with the SfAA in several ways. When I first joined SfAA as a graduate student at the University of Florida, the Society provided me with a number of professional socialization opportunities. Operating in an applied, interdisciplinary environment (I am the Marion Pearsall Professor of Behavioral Science in the University of Kentucky's College of Medicine) I have been exposed to how other organizations assist students excel and I would like to share these strategies with the SfAA, pursuing professionalization workshops, career development opportunities, and mentor/mentee mixers. I would prioritize strengthening the connection between those anthropologists

employed in applied and academic settings by encouraging special joint publications and presentations, collaboration in policy advocacy, and developing creative mechanisms to better represent the perspectives of international applied anthropologists. Finally, I would seek out opportunities to promote recognition of the importance of anthropology to students and to the broader public. In my mind, the SfAA is the organization best suited to promote anthropological insights that have the capacity of addressing human problems locally and globally.

Ruth Wilson

Ruth P. Wilson is a Sustaining Fellow of the Society for Applied Anthropology. She received her B.A. degree in Biology and Community Studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz (1975) and her M.A. (1978) and Ph.D. (1985) in Social Anthropology from Stanford University. As a social anthropologist her professional career includes appointments in the academy, public health, and the private sector. She is currently the Chair of the Department of African-American Studies at San José State University in San José, California.

Wilson's academic career has been accentuated by a six-year U.S. Public Health Service appointment as an anthropologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1988-94). At the CDC, Wilson provided technical assistance to national public health programs, the United States Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, and UNICEF. As a private consultant, Wilson provides program evaluation and assessments to health care projects and non-profit agencies in the USA and internationally.

Wilson has served on the editorial board of *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* and *Human Organization*, and as a peer reviewer for *Qualitative Health Research*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *the Canadian Journal of African Studies*, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, *Medical Anthropology*, and *Human Organization*. Her most recent publications appeared in *Practicing Anthropology* (2005), *Hypertension* (2007), and the *Archives of Internal Medicine* (2008).

A member of SfAA, SMA, and AAA for over 20 years, she most recently served as a member of the SfAA Nominations and Elections Committee (2006-08) and the Del Jones Committee (2004-2006), and was appointed Chair of both. She also served as the Chair of the SMA's Hughes Paper Award (2009, on two AAA HIV/AIDS national task forces, and the Advisory Board for the American Colleges and Universities' Program for Health and Higher Education.

She considers it an honor to be nominated to serve the SfAA as a member of the Board of Directors, and if elected will continue to support the mission of the SfAA and its efforts be more inclusive and accessible to people of diverse disciplines, professions, and social backgrounds.

Student Representative

Edward Bennett

I am a PhD student in biological anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. My work integrates geospatial data, bioinformatics, and ethnographic data to explore biocultural linkages between micro-ethnic groups and their environments for the purposes of researching local and global health concerns. As a student at UNC I have become involved in rural health projects in both Alaska and Ecuador. Meanwhile, I have been mapping North American food recalls alongside colleagues in computer and library sciences. Concurrently I am doing contract work mapping a rural health initiative in North Carolina and intimate partner violence. I am an advocate for visual representation of data in applied anthropology, specifically through the use of geographical information systems (GIS). While GIS is increasingly common across all disciplines of anthropology, ethical issues regarding representation remain unclear. The SfAA has a vital role to play in laying the foundation for theory and method in incorporating visual technologies that better communicate ideas to the discipline and facilitate public outreach.

Lucero Vasquez-Radonic

I am a PhD student in cultural anthropology at the University of Arizona. My work integrates political ecology and linguistic anthropology in order to shed light on the challenges of space production in the context of conservation initiatives in northern Mexico. Parallel to my dissertation research, I continue to work with small-scale agricultural producers in Paraguay. As part of this project, I am interested in exploring the possibilities of integrating applied anthropology with critical visual anthropology in both data collection and in the creation of final visual products for a wider public. In all my research, it is this point of communication and exchange that I believe needs to be further explored and, hopefully, developed.

Since I came to Arizona I have worked as a research assistant at the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA). My participation in BARA has nurtured my interest into the possibility and the need to advocate for changes in current academic training on methods and ethics. I think that both the SfAA and students have key roles to play in grappling with the tough questions that face anthropologists at the moment. While I do not believe that a simple ten-step guide to methods and ethics exists, as a Society and as a discipline, our willingness to engage in debates and to problematize these fundamental tenants of our field is important activity.

I think the SfAAs, through its annual meeting and its embrace of all the subfields as well as other disciplines, commits itself to useful theoretical, thematic, and methodological explorations.

Nominations & Elections - Slate A Candidates

Terre Satterfield

Bio not available

Claire Sterk

Claire E. Sterk, Ph.D., is a medical and applied anthropologist with more than two decade of experience in teaching and research. My research focuses on substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and community health in the United States and elsewhere (e.g., the Netherlands, Cambodia, South Africa and Brazil). My international work mainly has been of a capacity building nature.

I received her degree from the University of Utrecht (the Netherlands) and Erasmus University, Rotterdam (the Netherlands). I am the author of *Fast Lives: Women and Crack Cocaine* (Temple University Press, 1999) and *Tricking and Tripping: Prostitution in the Era of AIDS* (Social Change Press, 2000). In addition, my name as (co-)author appears on over 100 articles and book chapters. I am a fellow of the Society for Applied Anthropology and recently completed a Roselyn Carter Public Policy Fellow and a term on the National Advisory Council of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Prior to becoming an anthropologist based in the U.S. academy, I was a visiting scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1986-1988). Currently, in addition to administrative responsibilities, I am Charles Howard Candler Professor in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

I serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Drug Issues* and the *Journal of Ethnicity and Substance Abuse*. I regularly consult with federal agencies, foundations, and community-based organizations/NGOs on issues around capacity building and health disparities. I also am engaged in areas of curriculum development in applied anthropology and strategic ways to ensure internship experiences for local (Atlanta) graduate students.

I have been active in the SfAA since the late 1980s and have regularly organized sessions or presented papers at the annual meetings, often with my students. I am excited about the opportunity to be engaged with the SfAA in new ways and to bring my energy to linking anthropologists who are located in academic and in applied settings, domestically as well as globally. In addition, I am eager to engage in a continued dialogue about the future of applied anthropology and its contributions to current debates around issues such as (bio)ethics and health disparities. If given the opportunity serve on the Nominations Committee, I hope to contribute to the overall mission of the SfAA, with a special focus on the mission of this committee.

Nominations & Elections - Slate B Candidates

Doug Feldman

I received my Ph.D. in Anthropology from Stony Brook University in 1981. I am currently a Professor of Anthropology and former Chair of the Anthropology Department at The College at Brockport, State University of New York, located near Rochester, NY, where I work with undergraduate students on applied anthropology research projects, and teach courses on global issues and applied anthropology. I recently was a Visiting Professor at the University of Debrecen in Hungary. I also consulted for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on international reproductive health projects, for the University of Rochester School of Medicine's HIV vaccine trials research, and as an expert witness on several AIDS immigration cases for African clients.

Previously, I served as Director of Research for The Village, a large drug rehabilitation agency in Miami; as Research Associate Professor at the University of Miami School of Medicine; as Professor, Academic Director and Institute Director at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale; and as founding Executive Director of the AIDS Center of Queens County in New York City. I conducted extensive social, behavioral and epidemiologic research on HIV/AIDS in the United States and Africa (Zambia, Rwanda, Senegal, and Uganda), with grants from the NIH, NSF, and elsewhere, since 1982 – one of the first anthropologists to do so. I edited several books on AIDS: *The Social Dimensions of AIDS: Method and Theory* (1986), *Culture and AIDS* (1990), *Global AIDS Policy* (1994), *The AIDS Crisis: A Documentary History* (1998), *AIDS, Culture and Africa* (2008), and *AIDS, Culture and Gay Men* (in press). I am currently interested in research on international affairs, HIV global policy and on AIDS-related stigma.

I founded and was the first Chair of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group, the AAA Task Force on AIDS, and the SfAA Advisory Committee on AIDS. I helped significantly redirect HIV policy for Bangladesh in 1988. I served on committees of the Institute of Medicine, and on the boards of several AIDS service organizations in New York City, Miami, and Rochester. I also served on the AAA Nominations Committee (2001-04), as Treasurer of the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA) (2002-04), and on the board of the Society for Medical Anthropology (2004-07). I am the 1996 recipient of the Solon T. Kimball Award for Public and Applied Anthropology, and the 2008 recipient of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group Distinguished Service Award. I have been an active Fellow of SfAA since 1981.

As member of the Nominations/Elections Committee, I will use my wide experience as an applied anthropologist in both academic and practicing anthropology to nominate for SfAA elections the very best candidates for the positions.

David Groenfeldt

I am an applied anthropologist specializing on water and agriculture, mostly in developing country contexts, though the lines are blurring. Since 2006 I have been

Executive Director of the Santa Fe Watershed Association (www.santafewatershed.org) in New Mexico. I will leave this post at the end of 2009 to nurture a new organization, the Water and Culture Institute (www.waterculture.org) dedicated to integrating traditional indigenous values into water resources management policies, as an adaptive response to climate change. My role in this Institute, and in my career, is to bring cultural values into management awareness. If all goes well, the health of cultural traditions, as well as the natural resources, can benefit.

I received my PhD in 1984 from the University of Arizona, based on field research on irrigation development in northwest India, and was awarded a Rockefeller Foundation postdoctoral fellowship that placed me with the International Water Management Institute (www.iwmi.org) in Sri Lanka. During my five years there, I was engaged in multidisciplinary field research on water user organizations, and I managed a research network on farmer-managed irrigation systems in Asia. From 1989 to 2002 I was based in Washington, DC, initially as a consultant and later with the World Bank, working on participatory irrigation management. During this period I co-taught courses on rural development at Johns Hopkins SAIS program, and on development anthropology (co-taught with my late wife, Pam Stanbury) at George Washington University. I became familiar with the application of anthropology in international development from the perspective of both environmental organizations (consultancies with World Resources Institute and World Wildlife Fund), consultants (In addition to being a freelance consultant, I was the Washington representative for ARD, Inc from 1991-1994), and donor agencies (USAID, GTZ, IFAD, and for 7 years, the World Bank).

In 2002 I moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico and worked until 2006 as a freelance consultant, and with the Indigenous Water Initiative (www.indigenouswater.org) which I started. In partnership with other groups, I organized sessions at the World Water Forums in Kyoto (2003) and Mexico City (2006) focusing on indigenous peoples' views about water and development. (See my chapter in the UNESCO volume, *Water and Indigenous Peoples*). As a consultant to the Japan Ministry of Agriculture, I became involved in "multifunctional" agricultural policies and the social and cultural role of paddy agriculture in Monsoon Asia. I applied the perspective of water's cultural importance as director of the Santa Fe Watershed Association. In this role, and through academic interaction (I serve as an adjunct Associate Professor of anthropology at the University of New Mexico), I have been trying to find synergies between sustainable resource management of our local river and the cultural values of the local community. What I am finding is that our Western value system is often at odds with environmental conservation, and needs to be tempered with other cultural influences. Indigenous values that seemed variously romantic or maladaptive to previous generations of anthropologists are, in the face of climatic catastrophe, looking rather more practical than our profession ever imagined. I am applying to be on the Nominations and Elections committee as a way of helping to steer the SfAA towards positions that embrace cultural diversity as a central focus of our Society, and in our larger society as well.